

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 18 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 1-11 have been canceled and claim 12 has been amended. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated December 17, 2004.

35 USC §112 Second Paragraph Rejection:

Claims 12-18 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 12 has been amended to overcome this rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

As to the Merits:

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner maintains the following rejections:

Claims 1 – 6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Narayan et al. (USP 6,035,323) in view of Wakui et al. (US Publication 2001/0012060) and Takemoto (USP 6,335,742). Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Narayan, Wakui,

U.S. Patent Application Serial No.: 09/695,981
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Takemoto and further in view of Tanaka (JP 11-191870). Claims 9 – 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Narayan in view of Nazari (USP 6,335,742).

As stated above, claims 1-11 have been cancelled. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections of claims 1-11 are now moot.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

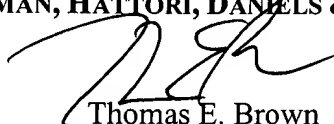
If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No.: 09/695,981
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



Thomas E. Brown
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,450

TEB/jl
1250 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 822-1100 (t)
(202) 822-1111 (f)